

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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-----060025 081342Z /45

O R 081311Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7465
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06397

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL MILI MNUC PARM GW OVIP (BROWN, HAROLD)
SUBJECT: FRG MOD PLANNING CHIEF PROGNOSTICATIONS
ON SECDEF MEETINGS HERE

REF: BONN 6105

1. WALTER STUETZLE, PLANNING CHIEF AT THE GERMAN
DEFENSE MINISTRY, YESTERDAY EVENING MADE THE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS ON GERMAN THINKING FOR THE SECDEF-APEL AND
SECDEF-SCHMIDT MEETINGS:

-- GIVEN THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE FOR SECDEF-APEL
MEETINGS, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE IMPOSSIBLE TO COVER
ALL THE SUBJECTS LISTED BY EITHER SIDE FOR THE AGENDA.
THEREFORE, IT SEEMS BEST TO CATEGORIZE THE PURPOSE AND
SUBJECTS OF THE MEETINGS UNDER THREE GENERAL HEADINGS:

(A) A CHANCE FOR THE TWO MINISTERS TO BECOME
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ACQUAINTED. THIS SHOULD NOT TAKE LONG.

(B) DISCUSSION OF BASIC STRATEGY. THIS WOULD BE
THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE MEETINGS, BECAUSE
IT WOULD GIVE TONE AND SUBSTANCE TO EVERYTHING
ELSE. IT SHOULD CONSIST OF AN EXCHANGE OF
STRATEGIC CONCEPTS.

(C) PRACTICAL ISSUES. THIS WOULD INCLUDE SUCH TOPICS AS LTDP, AWACS, THE TWO-WAY STREET, THE TELEPHONE QUESTION, ETC.

-- THE CONVERSATION WITH THE CHANCELLOR WOULD PROBABLY BE DEVOTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO THE STRATEGIC DISCUSSION. IN GERMAN EYES, THE TRIAD STILL LIVES BUT THERE IS GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT THE BALANCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON HAND IN THE THEATER (DESPITE GERMAN AWARENESS OF STRATEGIC RESOURCES AVAILABLE). THE CHANCELLOR HOPES VERY MUCH TO GET AS FULL AN ANALYSIS AS POSSIBLE FROM THE SECRETARY, AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PRESENT HIS OWN.

2. STUETZLE OBSERVED THAT AT ONE POINT THE NATO ALLIANCE HAD RELIED ON U.S. THEATER NUCLEAR RESOURCES TO MAKE UP ITS CONVENTIONAL DEFICIT. NOW HE SAID, THE ALLIANCE WAS WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE CONVENTIONAL FORCES. HOWEVER, JUST AS IT HAD BEEN WRONG FOR THE ALLIANCE TO TRY TO COMPENSATE FOR CONVENTIONAL WEAKNESS BY RELIANCE ON NUCLEAR STRENGTH, SO IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR THE ALLIANCE TO TRY TO USE CONVENTIONAL POWER TO COMPENSATE FOR NUCLEAR SHORTFALLS. IN EITHER CASE, HE INDICATED, STRATEGIC DISTORTIONS COULD

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RESULT.

3. STUETZLE SAID THAT THE CHANCELLOR WOULD, IN THIS CONNECTION, ALSO FOCUS ON SALT AND PARTICULARLY ON GREY AREA ISSUES. HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT IT WOULD BE TO THE SECRETARY'S ADVANTAGE TO HAVE READ SCHMIDT'S IISS SPEECH OF LAST OCTOBER (REPORTED IN LONDON'S 17917, DTG 311828Z OCT 77). HE SAID THIS SPEECH CONTAINED THE MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGIC MATTERS ON THE CHANCELLOR'S MIND, AND THAT HIS ATTITUDE ON SPECIFIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS COULD BE UNDERSTOOD ONLY IN THE LIGHT OF HIS GENERAL STRATEGIC CONCEPTS.

4. THERE WAS A BRIEF EXCHANGE ON THE TELEPHONE QUESTION. WHEN THE POLITICAL COUNSELLOR OBSERVED THAT HE HAD NEVER HEARD SUCH NARROW ARGUMENTS AS THOSE PRESENTED BY THE BUNDESPOST TO JUSTIFY ITS CASE, STUETZLE OBSERVED THAT THE BUNDESPOST REGARDED ITSELF AS INDEPENDENT OF ANY SUPERIOR AUTHORITY, BUT HE ADDED THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE RESOLVED AND THAT THERE WAS NO CAUSE FOR US TO BE UNDULY CONCERNED.

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